

In re Patent Application of:
FLICK
Serial No. 10/626,969
Filing Date: JULY 25, 2003

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application and for identifying allowable subject matter in Claims 9-11. The Examiner is also thanked for the Examiner interview of July 28, 2005 concerning a proposed set of amended claims. The Examiner determined the proposed amended claims would require further search and/or consideration, and, therefore, the proposed amended claims would not be entered. As a result, this amendment contains the proposed amended claims submitted with this Request for Continuing Examination. Independent Claims 1, 12, 20, 25, 30, and 37 have been amended to further define the invention over the prior art references. Dependent Claims 9 and 10 have been amended for consistency.

The patentability of the claims is discussed in greater detail below. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

I. The Claimed Invention

Amended independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to a vehicle security system for a vehicle of a type comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and connected to a plurality of vehicle devices. The data communications bus carries data and address information thereover. The vehicle security system includes a vehicle security sensor interfacing with the vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and carrying data and address information for generating a pre-warning signal or an alarm signal depending upon a sensed threat level. The vehicle security system further includes an

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alarm indicator, and a vehicle security controller interfacing with the vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle for causing the alarm indicator to generate a pre-warning indication based upon the pre-warning signal, or for causing the alarm indicator to generate an alarm indication based upon the alarm signal. Amended independent Claim 30 is a method counterpart to Claim 1 and includes similar features.

Amended independent Claim 12 is directed to a vehicle security system for a vehicle of a type comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, the data communications bus carrying data and address information thereover, and connected to a plurality of vehicle devices. The vehicle security system comprises a vehicle security sensor for generating a pre-warning signal or an alarm signal depending upon a sensed threat level, and an alarm indicator interfacing with the vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and carrying data and address information. The vehicle security system further comprises a vehicle security controller connected to the vehicle security sensor and interfacing with the vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and carrying data and address information for causing the alarm indicator to generate a pre-warning indication based upon the pre-warning signal, or for causing the alarm indicator to generate an alarm indication based upon the alarm signal. Amended independent Claim 37 is method counterpart to Claim 12 and includes similar features.

Amended independent Claim 20 is directed to a vehicle security device for use with a vehicle of a type comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the

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vehicle, the data communications bus carrying data and address information thereover. The vehicle security device comprises a sensor for generating a pre-warning signal or an alarm signal depending upon a sensed threat level. The vehicle security device further comprises a security sensor bus interface for interfacing the sensor with the vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and carrying data and address information.

Amended independent Claim 25 is directed to a vehicle security device for a vehicle of a type comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, the data communications bus carrying data and address information thereover. The vehicle security device comprises an alarm indicator and associated alarm indicator data bus interface for interfacing the alarm indicator with the vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and carrying data and address information. The alarm indicator is for generating a pre-warning indication responsive to a pre-warning signal on the vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, and for generating an alarm indication based upon an alarm signal on the vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and carrying data and address information.

II. The Claims Are Patentable

A. The Hwang/Suman et al. Combination

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 12, 20, 25, 30, and 37 as unpatentable over the Hwang '407 patent (the Hwang patent) in view of the Suman et al. '298 patent (the Suman et al. patent). The Hwang patent discloses a prealarm

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sensor for a vehicle security system that can generate a pre-alerting signal, which is different than the normal alarm signal. The Examiner correctly notes that the communication line between the prealarm sensor and the main control alarm circuit is not a data communications bus and looks to the Suman et al. patent to provide such.

The Suman et al. patent discloses a data bus 111 including eleven parallel data lines for each one of the inputs 100-110 that are connected to a respective one of eleven input terminals 114. (See Fig. 6A and column 7, lines 37-40). The Suman et al. patent also discloses that the microcontroller 77 includes thirteen output terminals 113 connected by thirteen parallel output conductors 116 to an output interface circuit 115. (See Fig. 6B and column 7, lines 41-43).

In contrast, amended independent Claim 1, for example, includes a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle for carrying data and address information thereover. The Suman et al. patent fails to disclose such. Amended independent Claims 12, 20, 25, 30, and 37 include features similar to Claim 1.

B. The Hwang/Nykerk Combination

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 12, 20, 25, 30, and 37 as unpatentable over the Hwang '407 patent (the Hwang patent) in view of the Nykerk '285 patent (the Nykerk patent). The Hwang patent is discussed above and the Examiner correctly notes that the communication line between the prealarm sensor and the main control alarm circuit is not a data communications bus and looks to the Nykerk patent to

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provide such. The Nykerk patent discloses a self-contained alarm system 55 that includes a data bus 64 (See Fig. 4 and column 9, lines 59-63).

In comparison, amended independent Claim 1, for example, includes a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle for carrying data and address information thereover. The Nykerk patent fails to disclose such. Amended independent Claims 12, 20, 25, 30, and 37 include features similar to Claim 1.

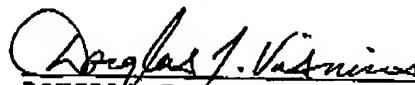
Accordingly, amended independent Claims 1, 12, 20, 25, 30, and 37 are patentable. The dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features of the invention, are also patentable, and require no further discussion.

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III. CONCLUSIONS

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-8300 to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 19th day of August, 2005.

